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Hank Risan

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EXAMINER

GEE, JASON KAI YIN

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/661,047	Applicant(s) RISAN ET AL.	
	Examiner JASON K. GEE	Art Unit 2134	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/07/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-29 and 55-88 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is response to communication: RCE filed on 03/07/2008.
2. Claims 30-54 are currently pending in this application. Claims 30 and 42 are independent claims.
3. No new IDS was received for this application.
4. Receipt is acknowledged of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) and a submission, filed on 03/07/2008.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 03/07/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In regards to the 112 rejection, the appellant points to the Figures and specifications to resolve the unclearness. However, this is not sufficient. The claims were rejected, as the term "commonly" is not unclear. The metes and bounds of the term 'commonly' are unclear. The term "common" in the claims is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "common" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

As the term "commonly" is still unclear and the appellant does not amend the term, the Peinado reference still teaches the limitation of diverting a commonly used data path of a media content provider application to a controlled data pathway

monitored by said compliance mechanism. As taught in Peinado, such as in paragraph 128 and figure 5, if data is to be protected, the system is handed over to a DRM. Thus, in accordance to Figure 5, the path may be diverted to step 509. If the content is not to be protected, it will be rendered, and will be sent to step 507 instead. The DRM path is a controlled data pathway monitored by the compliance mechanism.

The appellants also argue that combining the references are improper and that there is no motivation to combine such references. However, all the references are directed toward computer security, and more specifically, DRM systems and secure sharing of data between clients. They do not change the principle of operation. All the references are relevant art, and may be modified to teach the limitations of the claim. In systems concerning DRMs and data sharing environments, the methods are all directed toward secure content distribution toward different users and clients, and thus, is relevant art. Even though Peinado focuses on a single system, the licenses are still global and are controlled by outside servers which relate to other systems.

The appellants also argue that Peinado teaches directly away from diverting a commonly used data path to a controlled data pathway. However, as described above, and as seen in Figure 5 and paragraph 128, a determination is made and a 'commonly' used data path is diverted to a controlled data pathway, and thus, it teaches the limitations of the claims.

The appellants also argue claim 31, and say that there is hindsight in using the Leo reference. However, as clearly stated in paragraph 70, finding secure bridging units

that are physically close are advantageous as it allows better service. It is known to anyone in the art, and is clearly stated also by Leo that it is well known in the art.

The appellants also argue several of the dependent claims. The appellant has noted that there have been no specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support the rejections conclusions. Thus, on some of the claims, the appellant is arguing that it is not obvious to set a driver in a computer as a default driver. Further, the appellant is arguing that a driver emulator is not obvious. One of ordinary skill in the art would definitely know it is obvious to use emulators and also setting a particular driver to default. However, since the appellant claims that this is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, art will shown to direct the appellant to such matters.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claims 30-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 30-54, the independent claims recite controlling a data output path by diverting a commonly used data pathway to a controlled data pathway. The term "common" is unclear, and therefore indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 30, 31, 33-37, 39-43, 45-50, 52, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriya et al. US Patent Application Publication 2001/0056404 (hereinafter Kuriya), in view of Leoutsarakos US Patent Application Publication 2004/0039905 (hereinafter Leo), and further in view of Peinado et al. US Patent Application Publication 2002/0007456 (hereinafter Peinado).

As per claim 30, Kuriya teaches a method for preventing unauthorized recording of media content, said method comprising: transmitting from a client node to an administrative node a request for delivery of an instance of media content (throughout the reference, such as in paragraph 347, Figure 24), transmitting to said client node an access key and a location of said instance of media content of said content source (Figure 24, paragraph 348);

However, at the time of the invention, Kuriya does not explicitly teach all the details of the limitations. However, Leo teaches some of these limitations. Kuriya teaches content sources and providing addresses of a content server, but does not explicitly teach determining which content sources of a plurality of content sources to provide delivery of said instance of media content, provided said client node is authorized to receive said instance of media content. However, determining a preferred

device to connect to from a plurality of devices is taught by Leo, such as in paragraph 69-71. Also, as can be seen in Leo, these passages teach that a client device is provided the address and a key/ticket to connect to the preferred device. Further, transmitting the ticket/key to the preferred device designated by the address to receive service is taught in paragraph 74 of Leo. Combined with the Kuriya reference, the service could be receiving a the preferred content. Further, Kuriya teaches that in response to receiving said second request and said access key, transferring said instance of media content from said content source to said client node (paragraph 357),

However, at the time of the invention, the Leo and Kuriya reference do not teach all the limitations of the claims. However, this is taught by Peinado. Peinado teaches activating a compliance mechanism in response to said client node receiving said instance of media content (paragraph 17, paragraph 147), said compliance mechanism coupled to said client node (paragraph 15, Figure 4), said client node having a media content presentation application operable thereon and coupled to said compliance mechanism (Figure 4, paragraph 147, paragraph 113); controlling a data path of a kernel-mode media device driver of said client node with said compliance mechanism upon detection of a kernel streaming mechanism operable on said client node (throughout the reference, such as in paragraph 18); and directing said media content from said kernel-mode media device driver to a media device driver coupled with said compliance mechanism, via said data path, for selectively restricting output of said media content (throughout the reference, such as in paragraphs 18, 19, 147, 128). Peinado also teaches wherein the compliance mechanism controls a data output path

Art Unit: 2132

by diverting a commonly used data pathway of said media content present application to a controlled data pathway monitored by said compliance mechanism, which is taught in Figure 5 and paragraph 128, in which a protected data is diverted toward a pathway controlled by the compliance mechanism.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Kuriya reference with Leo. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such an addition to be able to ensure security in an environment where data is shared between servers and plurality of clients. This is taught throughout Leo, such as in paragraphs 5-9. Also, Leo is relevant art, as it is directed toward security in data sharing environments.

Also, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Peinado reference. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such an addition to ensure a piece of content is not misused or used against the content owner's wishes. This is taught in paragraph 7 of Peinado: "Further, a need exists for a trusted component running on the computer device, where the trusted component enforces the rights of the content owner on such computing device in connection with a piece of digital content, even against attempts by the user of such computing device to access such digital content in ways not permitted by the content owner."

As per claim 31, Leo teaches wherein said determining which content source of said plurality of content sources to provide delivery of said instance of media content

further comprises: determining which content source of said plurality of content sources is nearest to the physical location of said client node (paragraph 70). Picking a content server close to the client unit would be obvious, as it teaches in paragraph 70 that someone skilled in the art will appreciate that better service can be provided if a connection is close rather than far.

As per claim 33, Peinado teaches wherein an access key to a content is time sensitive and becomes obsolete after a defined amount of time (paragraph 165, wherein the license is a key, and an expiration date exists; also paragraph 12).

As per claim 34, Leo teaches wherein said location of said instance of media content comprises an address (paragraph 69). Also, Kuriya teaches this as well, such as in 348 and 422.

As per claim 35, it is inherent that an address is changed if a media content is transferred. If the content is transferred to the client node (in this case, it is), the address of the content would be changed to the client node.

As per claim 36, Peinado teaches preventing said instance of media content from being returned from said kernel-mode media device driver to a recording application coupled to said client node when recording said instance of media content violates a usage restriction applicable to said instance of media content (paragraphs 7, 12, 19-21, 125, abstract).

As per claim 37, Peinado teaches allowing said media content to be returned from said kernel-mod device driver to a recording application coupled to said client system when recording said instance of media content complies with a usage restriction

applicable to said instance of media content (paragraphs 7, 12, 19-21, 125, abstract, where a license may allow a user to copy the content).

As per claim 39, Peinado teaches accessing an indicator associated with said instance of media content for indicating to said compliance mechanism a usage restriction applicable to said media content (paragraphs 10-13).

As per claim 40, Peinado teaches wherein said kernel-mode media device driver is part of an operating system operable on said client system (abstract, paragraphs 19-21). Further, it is also inherent, as a 'kernel' is defined as "the core of an operating system – the portion of the system that manages memory, files, and peripheral devices; maintains the time and date; launches applications; and allocates system resources." This definition is provided by the Microsoft Dictionary, 5th Edition.

As per claim 41, Peinado teaches throughout the reference altering said compliance mechanism present on said client node from a content source of said plurality of content sources in response to a change in a usage restriction comprising a copyright restriction or licensing agreement applicable to said instance of media content (throughout the reference, such as in paragraphs 168-170)

Claim 42 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 30 above. Directing said instance of media content to a custom media device coupled to said compliance mechanism via said data output path, for selectively restricting output of said media content, is taught in Peinado in paragraph 128 and 147.

Claim 43 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 31 above.

Claim 45 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 33 above.

Claim 46 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 34 above.

Claim 47 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 35 above.

As per claim 48, Peinado teaches wherein said instance of media content comprises a digital watermark or an embedded key (paragraphs 61, 66).

Claim 49 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 36 above.

Claim 50 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 37 above.

Claim 52 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 39 above.

Claim 54 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 41 above.

9. Claims 32 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious over the Kuriya combination as applied above, and further in view of Ferguson et al US Patent Application Publication 2002/0065849 (hereinafter Ferguson).

As per claim 32, the Kuriya combination does not explicitly teach determining which content source of said plurality of content sources contains said instance of media content. However, this would have been obvious, if not inherent. When multiple content servers are available, and only a selected few content servers carry the desired content, it would not make sense to direct the user to a content server which does not hold the piece of content. For further reference, Ferguson teaches this, such as in claims 170, 179, 180, and throughout the reference.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to include the teachings of Ferguson with the Kuriya combination. By ensuring that the user is directed to the content server which actually holds the piece of content, it would help increase the speed of the system as the system would not need to redirect to multiple content servers until the client is directed to a content server that actually holds the piece of content. Further, Kuriya teaches that there is a need for a system that allows seamless and integrated access to both local, as well as distributed content and information.

Claim 44 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 32 above.

10. Claims 32 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious over the Kuriya combination as applied above, and further in view of Radinsky US Patent No. 5,668,996 (hereinafter Radinsky)

As per claim 38, The Kuriyan combination does not explicitly teach restricting said client node to have said media device driver implemented as a default media device driver. However, Peinado alludes to this paragraph 128. In this paragraph Peinado teaches that the client computer only uses the DRM drivers only if the content is protected. Therefore, in the normal case, when content is normal and not protected, the content may be rendered without further ado (also Figure 5A). For further reference, a media driver set to default is shown in Radinsky, such as in claims 9, 14, and 40.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to restrict the client to have a media device driver implemented as the default media device driver. In general, since more content is not protected compared to protected, it would be faster to make the default media driver the one without protection. By doing so, the system may be faster, as only selected documents are protected. Further, setting a driver to default is a design choice, and any user may set drivers to a default driver in accordance to his preferences.

Claim 51 is rejected using the same basis of arguments used to reject claim 38 above.

11. Claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious over the Kuriya combination as applied above, and further in view of McGillis et al US Patent No. 7,032,228 (hereinafter McGillis).

As per claim 53, the Kuriyan combination does not explicitly teach wherein the custom media device is an emulation of a custom media driver. However, it is well known in the art that emulation drivers may be used. For further references, emulating drivers is taught in McGillsis, such as in col. 1 lines 40-64.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to emulate devices, such as custom media devices. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such an addition, as emulators are known to provide many benefits. Emulators implements specialized hardware devices into software onto pre-existing devices. By doing so, additional hardware is not needed. Since no additional hardware is not needed, space is saved, and money can be saved as well. Such advantages are also shown in col. 1 lines 40-64.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON K. GEE whose telephone number is (571)272-6431. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Art Unit: 2132

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-38113811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason Gee
Patent Examiner
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05/14/2008

/Benjamin E Lanier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2132